

## 40,000 protest in Red Square

## Gorbachov is jeered at May Day parade

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

AN ATTEMPT by the new Moscow City Council to bring controlled democracy to the city's May Day parade backfired badly yesterday when President Gorbachov led the official party from the Lenin mausoleum amid derisive whistles and shouts of "shame".

Some 40,000 demonstrators waved banners and placards condemning the Communist leadership and Mr Gorbachov personally, calling for an end to the economic blockade on Lithuania and supporting the radical Mr Boris Yeltsin for president. There were chants of support for the new Mayor of Moscow, the radical economist Mr Gavril Popov, who was with the presidential party, and calls for the Politburo to resign en bloc.

The demonstrators, augmented by several thousand police, KGB and plain-clothes militia, had paraded into Red Square for the second part of what was planned as a double May Day parade. The first part, organized by the official trade unions, passed off quietly and after it finished the official party remained on top of the Lenin mausoleum for the second — organized by Moscow's public bodies and informal political groups.

The double-parade had been recommended by the city council and sanctioned — as is now obligatory for demonstra-

tions in central Moscow — by the Council of Ministers, apparently to pre-empt a bigger, unofficial demonstration that might overwhelm the main event in Red Square.

Initially it seemed that the police did not intend to let the second parade to stop in the square. But the demonstrators stood their ground and turned — as had the trade union demonstrators at the first parade — to face the mausoleum, expecting speeches. After 10 minutes of continuous barking, the official party left. Soviet television, which had broadcast the demonstration live, stopped its coverage just before the Politburo marched off.

The first demonstration, organized by the official trade unions, had been unusually low-key. Marchers were organized for the first time according to profession and not formally introduced on entering the square, as in previous years. There was little of the usual cheering.

Short speeches from local and national trade union leaders referred to the country's economic crisis and expressed trepidation about the effect on workers' living standards of the reform programme. Banners, clearly ordered and distributed by the trade unions, urged price controls, no unemployment and called for an end to economic "experiments".

Security was strict all day, with thousands of extra police and soldiers drafted into the city. Checks began at the outermost ring road and ended with no fewer than five checks on identity papers and invitation cards for those approaching Red Square.

Interior Ministry troops and regular soldiers were much in evidence, and all possible entrances to the square were barricaded with lorries and buses immediately after each group of demonstrators had been allowed through.

Witnesses disagreed about whether President Gorbachov's exit had been planned to coincide with the end of television coverage or came in response to the barracking and hostile banners. The demonstrators interpreted the leaders' departure as a humiliation, and that version rapidly gained currency.

Later, at another unofficial demonstration, one of Moscow's anti-establishment folk heroes, Mr Telman Gdlyan, warned a crowd of several thousand people that the "humiliation" of the leader-

ship might rebound. "You have not won," he said. "You have lost. Today we realized who we are up against — weak, cowardly politicians who turned their backs on the people. But they won't forgive us and will take their revenge."

One possible form of "revenge" might be the removal of the Moscow party leaders and further restrictions on the city council's authority.

Elsewhere in the Soviet Union, May Day parades were either abandoned or turned into local rallies for different political groupings. Interfax, the semi-official agency reported that official parades were dropped in Leningrad, the Baltic republics and the Transcaucasus, although unofficial processions and rallies passed off peacefully. In Latvia, which is expected to declare its independence after a Supreme Soviet meeting tomorrow, pro-Soviet demonstrators marched through Riga carrying placards reading "No to the Lithuanian variant".

Throughout Eastern Europe, the first May Day since last year's sweeping changes were marked by solidarity with democracy, taunts against old communist-worker alliances and jockeying for support in coming elections. About 50,000 people crossed from East to West Berlin to rally outside the Reichstag, while in Poland rival political groups held their own celebrations to mark the workers' holiday, there being no official parades.

But in Cuba, the spectacular demonstration went ahead as usual with President Castro, wearing his familiar olive-green uniform and cap, watching through binoculars from a reviewing stand as more than half a million workers, soldiers and young people carrying flags and banners marched through Havana's Revolution Square to the sound of revolutionary songs blaring out from dozens of loudspeakers. Cuban workers' leaders said about three million people were involved in similar parades across the island.

In Istanbul, where the Turkish Government had banned May Day marches, two people were shot and wounded and 600 were arrested in clashes between demonstrators and police.

Photograph, page 7  
May Day reports, page 9  
Leading article, page 13  
Tradition dawns, page 19

## Temperatures set a record for May Day

By David Young

BRITAIN yesterday had its hottest May Day since records began in 1875. Kinross, near Inverness, reached 27C (81F), beating the previous best of 26.7C, recorded at St James's Park, London, in 1966.

The forecast is that the weather will continue dry and warm for the rest of the week, with temperatures in the South-east again rising to around 24C (75F). Fears of an early start to summer smog in London receded yesterday, according to the Department of the Environment's monitoring service, but city air pollution is being exported to

rural areas of the South-east, according to regional stations.

The independent London Scientific Service said pollution that accumulated on Sunday and Monday above safety limits recommended by the World Health Organization were being dispersed with a strengthening of winds.

A two-year-old girl drowned in a pool at her home in Hampshire yesterday, and in Sussex a youth aged 19 drowned in a reservoir. In Essex a man is feared to have drowned while swimming.

Forecast, page 24



Defiant in the shadow of Marx, Engels and Lenin, opposition demonstrators carry a giant crucifix through Red Square for a May Day parade that ended with President Gorbachov being jeered from the Lenin mausoleum

## Pope to beatify 'example for youth'

From Richard Bassett Rome

THE Vatican will depart from the traditional view that saints should be serious, strait-laced individuals, without a sense of humour, when the Pope beatifies Pier Giorgio Frassati later this month.

Pier Giorgio was a far cry from the ecclesiastical stiffness and melancholy philosophies usually associated with candidates for beatification, the first step before canonization and sainthood.

He died in Turin in 1925, aged 24, not before, however, *The Times* in a dispatch from its Milan correspondent in the early 1920s had praised "Signor Pier Giorgio Frassati" for defending his father from an attack by Italian fascists. "The mob was seen off by this energetic young man's timely intervention," *The Times* wrote.

This was not Frassati's only connection with the press. His father was the founder and owner of *La Stampa*, the Italian daily. Deeply opposed to Mussolini's blackshirts, his house was often the target of demonstrators.

Born into a privileged and wealthy family, Frassati lived his life to the fullest, his good looks attracting countless female admirers. Happiest scaling a mountain or organizing a party — one picture has him clucking a whisky bottle and wearing a paper hat — he was at first glance the archetypal young blade of the 1920s.

"He was the quintessential Continued on page 24, col 4

## Thatcher silent on poll tax changes

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MRS Margaret Thatcher refused to indicate in the Commons yesterday whether there would be legislation in the present session of Parliament to amend the poll tax.

Challenged by Mr Neil Kinnock to do so, she would say only that the Government would make an announcement when it was ready. Government sources said later that the question of whether or not legislation would be brought forward had to await the outcome of the review of the community charge.

Mrs Thatcher made it plain that the basic principle of the tax was not being reviewed. Ministers, she said, were looking to see if any "adjustments" were needed. That had been signalled before, not least in last Wednesday's debate, and there was no surprise. Any confusion, she argued, existed only in the minds of high-sounding Labour councils.

Ministers were working yesterday to lower expectations of big changes. Mr Kenneth

## War crimes law setback

THE House of Lords yesterday overwhelmingly rejected a government proposal to change Scottish law to hasten the trial of suspected Nazi war criminals in Scotland (Sheila Gunn writes).

The peers, who oppose the attempt to hold war crimes trials in Britain, voted by 137 to 62 for an amendment to remove from the Scottish law reform Bill a provision to take evidence in war crime trials via a television link.

Thames protest, page 2  
Parliament, page 8

## Atlantic's liabilities

By Angela Mackay

ATLANTIC Computers, put into effective receivership two weeks ago by its parent, British and Commonwealth, has liabilities of between £500 million and £1,000 million. Price Waterhouse, the administrators appointed to Atlantic, said yesterday that unsecured creditors' chances of receiving a payout were grim. They spoke of "inevitable liquidation".

Ferranti International, an apparent victim of corporate fraud, said it expected to write off about £200 million.

Fall reports, page 25

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\* Research findings as reported in the Financial Times.



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## Jobs warning

Employment in manufacturing industry is set to fall by an average of 18,000 a month over the next three months as companies try to protect profits and market share against a strong rise in costs, the CBI says in its quarterly industrial trends survey. Page 25

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## Gummer goes tooth and claw for vegetarians

By Michael Hornsby Agriculture Correspondent

VEGETARIANISM is a "wholly unnatural" practice without support in biblical teaching, according to Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Addressing an audience at Butchers' Hall in the City yesterday Mr Gummer, who is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England, said: "I consider meat to be an essential part of the diet. The Bible tells us that we are masters of the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field, and we very properly eat them."

"If the Almighty had wanted us to have three stomachs (like grass-eating cattle), I am sure he could have arranged it, but he chose to make us omnivores instead." Mr Gummer, speaking at the biennial luncheon of the International Meat Trade Association, drew enthu-

siastic applause from an audience mainly of butchers and meat merchants. He said he was tired of reading in the press about the 10 per cent of the population who had turned vegetarian or reduced their meat intake. "I want to see more articles about the sensible 90 per cent who are still eating meat."

Warning to his theme, he said it was time to go on the offensive against "deeply undemocratic food faddists who want to impose on the rest of us views which come from their own inner psyches." Food was becoming a "religion substitute" which enabled people "to make themselves feel more moral by the diet they choose."

He said he particularly resented "those who encourage children to become vegetarian on grounds which have nothing to do with truth and everything to do with prejudice" — a reference to a video which the Vegetarian Society has

been showing in secondary schools since last December.

Miss Juliet Gellatley, the society's head of youth education, immediately retorted: "It is a totally factual video, and much of the information in it comes from Mr Gummer's own ministry. It looks at the way animals are kept and slaughtered, health and nutrition aspects, and the effect of meat-eating in affluent countries on the developing world, which is forced to grow grain to feed Western animals."

The British Chicken Information Service, meanwhile, reported yesterday that chicken in 1989 was Britain's most popular meat for the second consecutive year, pushing red meat into second place. It said chicken now had 31 per cent of the meat market in volume terms, compared with 29 per cent for beef, 17 for lamb, 16 for pork and 7 per cent for other types of poultry.



Mr Gummer: "We are masters of the fowls"





# Peace campaigners in spy escape case win delay to trial

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

TWO peace campaigners yesterday won leave to challenge in the High Court a judge's decision that they must stand trial for their roles in helping the double agent George Blake to escape from prison 24 years ago.

In what is believed to be an unprecedented legal move, Mr Justice Hodgson ordered the trial of Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle to be halted while their application for judicial review goes ahead.

Their trial had been due to start at the Central Criminal Court today. The case raises an important legal issue as to whether or not decisions of Crown Court judges in such circumstances are open to judicial review.

Mr Justice Hodgson said he considered the point "arguable and indeed difficult" and it should be considered at a full judicial review hearing.

The case also raises the issue, increasingly coming before the courts, of whether a delay in bringing a prosecution is such as to amount to an "abuse of process" and therefore to be prejudicial to the defendants.

Mr Pottle, of Northview

Road, Crouch End, north London, and Mr Randle, of Hollingwood Lane, Bradford, are seeking to overturn Mr Justice Macpherson of Chancery's decision at the Central Criminal Court on Friday not to grant a permanent stay on the trial. They argue it is "oppressive" and "an abuse of the process" of the court to prosecute them 24 years after Blake's escape.

Yesterday Mr Justice Hodgson rejected an invitation from Mr John Laws, Treasury Counsel, who had been asked by the judge to assist the court on the law, to make a ruling that the High Court lacked jurisdiction to hear the case.

Mr Richard Gordon, a barrister and author of *Judicial Review: Law and Procedure*, said the decision to allow the challenge was unusual. It centred on the extent of the High Court's jurisdiction under section 29 (3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and whether such a challenge was prohibited in law or not. It could open the way to similar challenges where courts have refused to stop state prosecutions and could "add a growing impetus to the willingness

of the High Court to curb prosecutions where there has been considerable delay".

Mr Pottle, aged 51, said after the hearing: "We are both extremely pleased. We felt during the hearing last week that Mr Justice Macpherson had made a number of fundamental mistakes in excluding witnesses and a statement from a Special Branch inspector.

"I think that although this will have to go up to appeal, obviously the judge today feels that there are good grounds."

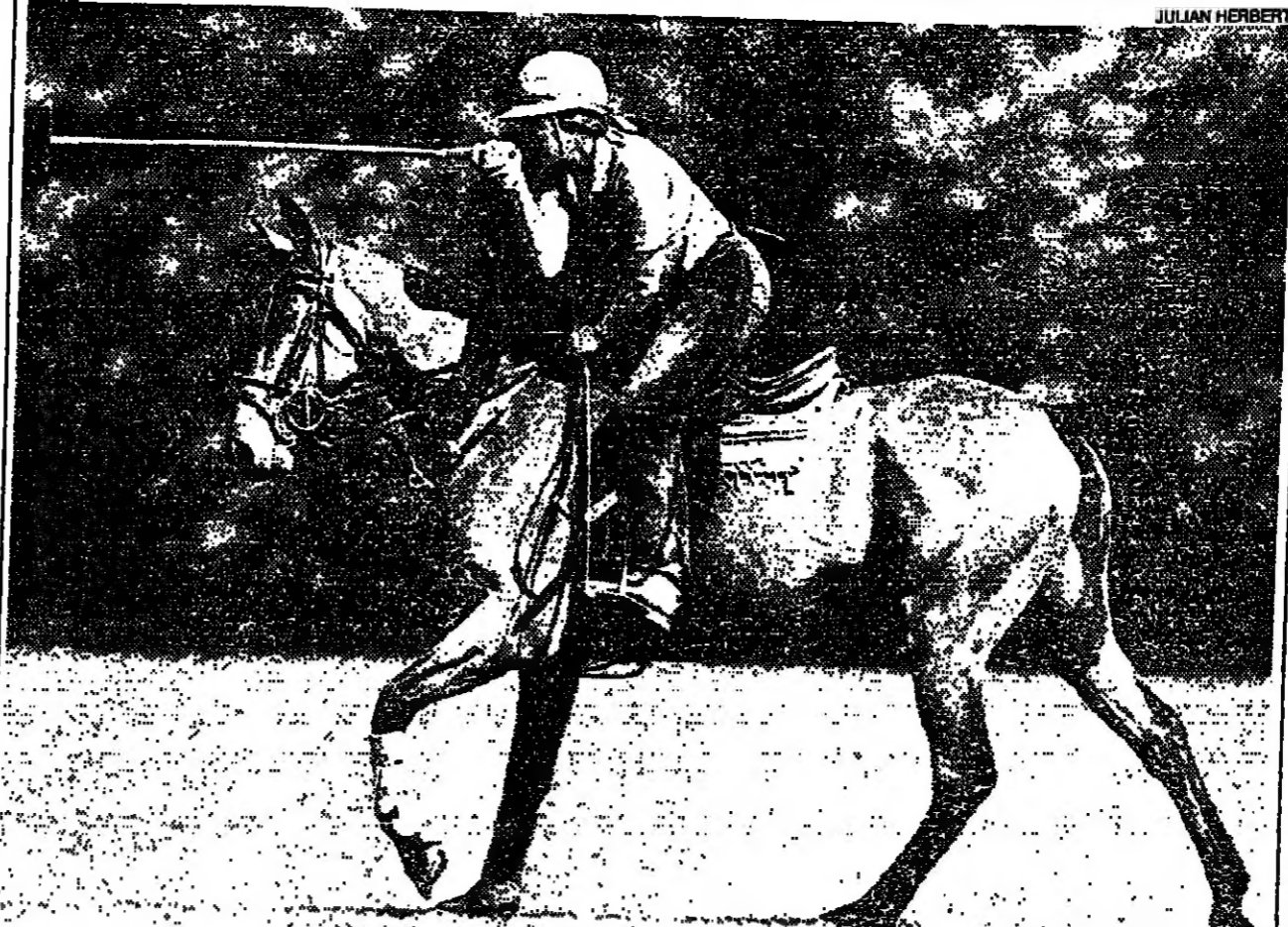
He said: "We would like the whole thing to be done as quickly as possible. We are in no way trying to delay the trial. It has taken 24 years to get to this point."

Mr Randle, a researcher aged 56, said: "The sooner the better for us. We don't want it hanging around any longer. It is a bit of a strain."

The two men say that 20 years ago a decision was taken by the police "at a high level" not to launch proceedings against them, even though the police had reason to believe they had committed the offence.

## Polo club takes aim at the future

JULIAN HERBERT



Mrs Claire Tomlinson, the leading British woman polo player, putting her horse, Chanceller, through his paces at the Beaufort Polo Club, at Westonbirt, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, which she and her former husband, Simon, hope may be the first of a new breed of polo clubs in Britain.

The Tomlinsons have put down two polo grounds on the site of the former Beaufort Polo Club ground at Down Farm, Westonbirt, and have retained the

name of the Beaufort club, popular during the 1930s and former home of the Indian polo team of the Maharajah of Jaipur (Ruth Gledhill writes). Now they are planning up to three more grounds in the locality.

The club, which has about 20 players, with handicaps from minus two to plus seven, has been affiliated to the Hurlingham Polo Association. The club's first team is playing in a tournament on Thursday, next week. It has

been revived in co-operation with the Cirencester Park Polo Club. Membership fees depend on age and ability.

Mrs Tomlinson said: "There is a growing demand for polo. We are aiming to encourage and bring on young British players and to produce a high standard. The aim ultimately is to have smaller clubs around the country for teaching and coaching, and the tournaments will stay at the bigger clubs. That is what happens in other countries."

## Parkinson launches safety campaign

By Michael Dynes  
Transport Correspondent

MILLIONS of travellers take unnecessary risks, putting their lives and the lives of others in danger every day, according to a survey published yesterday by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport.

Launching the transport safety campaign, "Safety on the move", Mr Parkinson urged people using all modes of transport to concentrate their efforts "on what they can do to improve their own safety and the safety of others".

The survey of a representative sample of 1,000 adults, conducted by the British Market Research Bureau, showed that 45 per cent of all drivers regularly exceed the 70mph speed limit and 16 per cent of pedestrians fail to look both ways when crossing the road.

The survey also showed that 17 per cent of rail passengers open train doors before trains stop, 42 per cent of air travellers fail to read safety instructions and 55 per cent of ferry passengers do not check where muster stations are.

Moreover, one in 10 surveyed admitted to jumping off a bus before the stop, 4 per cent of London Underground travellers force carriage doors open and 8 per cent of rail travellers lean out of windows while trains are moving.

"Every day millions of transport users take unnecessary risks. Most of the time people get away with these risks unscathed. But it only takes a bit of bad luck, and there can be a serious accident," Mr Parkinson said.

As 90 per cent of road accidents, for example, involve human error, the department had decided to launch a campaign focusing on the contribution travellers could make to their own safety.

Nonetheless, Mr Parkinson said he accepted the Department of Transport had "an overriding priority" to reduce risks faced by travellers, and said everything was being done to ensure that government and transport operators learnt the lessons of past accidents.

Mr Jonathan Bray, a spokesman for the campaign for improved public transport in London, criticized the safety campaign "for blaming passengers for transport accidents when poor management and underfunding are the chief culprits".

He said: "It is all very well reminding people to act sensibly when travelling, but the public know that it was bad management and under-funding that led to disasters like the King's Cross fire and the Clapham crash."

Mr Bray called on Mr Parkinson to set up a new independent safety inspectorate with the finance, powers and the will to oversee public transport, and to agree to additional London Underground lines needed to relieve dangerous overcrowding.

Leading article, page 13  
Safe driving, page 19



Mr Parkinson: Travellers take unnecessary risks

## Blake's first book fetches £74,000

By Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

THE best private library of rare English literature is no more after a huge two-day dispersal at Sotheby's, New York. Pickings from the H. Bradley Martin collection, which included first editions and autograph manuscripts by such names as W.H. Auden, William Blake, and John Betjeman, were shared between British and American dealers, with private buyers making frequent spirited bids.

An unnamed London dealer paid \$121,000 (£74,029) for a first edition of *Poetical Sketches*, William Blake's first book and one of only 20 known to exist. The estimate had been about £50,000. The book had the added attraction of various handwritten corrections by the author, such as when the word "beds" is changed to "birds", although some scholars believe those additions are fake.

Robert Browning's first book, *Pauline; a Fragment of a Confession*, written while still a teenager, sold to an American dealer for £47,109, while a first edition of Elizabeth Barrett's *The Battle of Marathon*, published when she was 13 and inscribed "for her dearest Grandmama with Elizabeth's love", fetched £30,284.

The sale was the climax of a massive dispersal of the H. Bradley Martin collection, compiled over 40 years by the Manhattan millionaire who became an Anglophile after a period as a student at Christ Church, Oxford, during the 1920s. Other areas of interest, including an impressive line-up of ornithological works, had already been sold according to instructions left by Mr Martin, who died in 1988.

Four lots containing unpublished poems by Sir John Betjeman sold within their estimates, the most expensive fetching \$19,800 (£12,200). The total for the first day's sale of 397 lots was £1.5 million, with 1 per cent unsold.

## Flying scenery stops Sondheim musical

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

THE Royal National Theatre performance of the Stephen Sondheim musical *Sunday in the Park with George* was cancelled last night to allow an investigation after a piece of falling scenery narrowly missed an actor during a performance.

Monday's performance at the Lyttelton Theatre was called off half way through when a wooden tree which needed to be "blown" off stage on pulleys fell from its hook.

It was the third incident at the National in a week leading to the stoppage of a performance, and the second for the Sondheim musical. Last Monday part of another piece of scenery, an iron weightbar, became dislodged.

The next day in the neighbouring Olivier Theatre, Peter Wood, the director, halted a performance of his production of *School for Scandal* when a hydraulic jack broke down, preventing the revolving stage from moving.

After the latest incident on Monday night a meeting of the actors took place and the management agreed to stop

the performance and cancel last night's to allow the whole of the complicated set to be examined. Ticket-holders were being offered refunds. It is expected that today's scheduled matinee performance of *Sunday in the Park with George* will go ahead.

"We have to make sure that everything is completely safe," a theatre spokesman said. "It is an extremely complicated set which requires large flats to fly off and on stage. The show had been on for 52 performances and there seemed no reason why the bar should suddenly be ripped loose on the fifth-third."

"Nor is there any explanation for why the tree should have come loose, but there is no question of sabotage. It has simply been bad luck, but we can take no chances."

The incidents at the theatre and elsewhere are being taken up by Equity, the actors' union. It said yesterday that a new working party involving the union, representatives of stage staff and theatre managers, has been set up to look into safety on stage.

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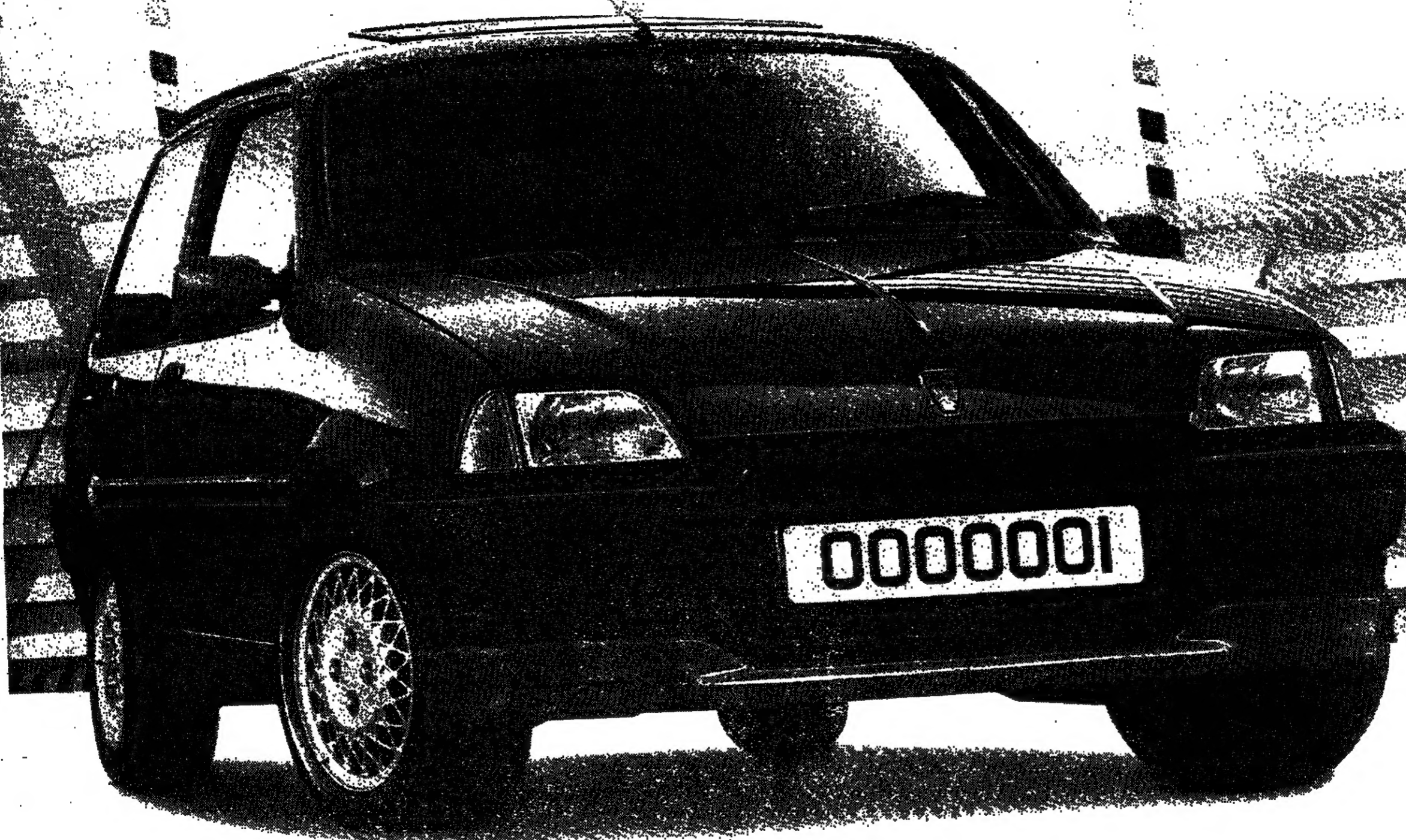
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## LOCAL ELECTIONS IN BRISTOL

# A mercantile city brought down by craze for change

KING Edward III, in 1373, turned Bristol into a county, separate from Somerset and Gloucestershire. Almost exactly 600 years later, Mr Edward Heath merged Bristol into a new county called Avon, taking in Bath, Weston-super-Mare and various other places, which greatly resented their new status.

Both Bristol and Avon councils have now been rate-capped because, so the Government says, they have been overspending. But the creation of Avon, adding an extra tier of administrative bureaucracy, means that people have to pay more for their local government, whether they do that in income tax, rates or the new community charge.

If the Government really wanted to solve its present difficulties, it could simply abolish Avon and all those tiers of bureaucracy, returning again to the old system when only householders paid any rates or had a vote in local elections.

In Bristol, as everywhere in these local elections, the poll tax has drawn attention away

Bristol's energy that once went into commerce and industry has been diverted over the past 30 years into development and construction. Richard West assesses the consequences

from more serious local issues. The city which had the most violent riots during the agitation preceding the Great Reform Bill of 1832 has taken again to the streets. Even the gentle Greens are burning their poll tax forms.

The Greens are concentrated in the Montpelier district, where health shops are so green "all the potatoes come covered in muck," a resident says. "There are also lots of solar panels in Montpelier but unfortunately it rains most of the time."

The Greens and the left disapprove of the way in which Bristol grew wealthy. As early as the 11th century, Bristol was both the market and the port for the sale of English slaves to Ireland and even further abroad, particularly young women.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Bristol shipped in most

of the wine from France, Spain and Portugal, acquiring itself a reputation for drunkenness. It was the main importer of furs. Bristol's main wealth in the 18th century came from the infamous three-way trade in cloth and drink to West Africa, buying slaves for sale in the West Indies, from where the ships brought back sugar and rum. Many descendants of the slaves now live in the St Paul's district, including the city's next Lord Mayor, the owner of a popular public house.

The Greens and the left joined in denouncing Bristol's new Sixties industries such as Concorde and a zinc smelter at Avonmouth, but most of the energy that went into commerce and industry has been diverted over the past 30 years into development and construction. Bristol was bombed in the Second World War but the damage was slight compared to the orgy of demolition that started about 1960. That year marked the pulling down of Bristol's only Norman house.

The next year witnessed the

demolition of all the Georgian and pre-Georgian houses of Vine Row and Park Hill, followed in 1962 by a medieval church, the Bishop's Palace and several old streets. The demolition reached a climax in 1964 with the disappearance of most of the

Georgian houses as well as some much loved Victorian and Edwardian public buildings.

The pulling down of a cluster of timber-framed houses to make way for a widening of the inner circuit road in 1969 removed the last

part of Bristol where one could stand entirely out of sight of any but 18th-century or earlier buildings.

The beautiful old city has been replaced by a concrete jungle of motorways, overpasses, hideous shopping centres and gimcrack office

blocks. Bristol is now one of the most ugly, depressing places in Britain. It is salutary to compare Bristol with Hull, another old port which also suffered bomb damage in the war. Because Hull has not been developed, because its centre has been restored, it is now as pleasant as Bristol is miserable. The people who used to live in the centre of Bristol were packed off into high-rise flats in the suburbs. Crime, vandalism and broken homes are rife. Near some of the more depressing estates, at Barton Hill, the Avon council finances a youth club, which now has international fame. It is a centre for students of aerosol art, or what the rest of us call spraying graffiti. Apparently people have come from as far as Munich, Lisbon, New York and Brisbane to study under the Barton Hill tutors.

A city which still has some

of the masterpieces of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Britain's engineering genius, is now famous for aerosol art. The SS Great Britain, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic, is still in the harbour, one of the few ships these days. The Clifton Suspension Bridge is still an attraction to those who are suicidal. The developers failed to get permission to pull down Brunel's magnificent Temple Meads station.

Brunel's work lies on the outskirts of town. It is the city centre where most of the ruination occurred. The remaining medieval churches include some that are locked for good. Another is now a museum. Even the working churches have only small congregations. It is a good place to ponder Cardinal Hume's remark last month that England is no longer a Christian country.

## Battle of the parties

A THIRD of the council is up for election this year in Bristol. The city is controlled by Labour, which holds 37 seats. The Conservatives have 24 seats and the Social and Liberal Democrats have five. Two vacant seats are also being contested. All parties are fighting all 25 seats. Labour is defending the majority of seats — 15 in all. The Conservatives are fighting to hold on to eight seats and the SLD is defending only two. The Greens are hopeful of scoring at least one victory at the polls. They are contesting all the seats up this year.

## 'Corruption row' embroils council on eve of poll

By Nicholas Wood  
Political Correspondent

LABOUR yesterday sought to sink Tory hopes of holding on to the flagship London borough of Westminster by accusing local Conservatives and ministers of "corruption" in the allocation of Whitehall grants to the authority.

Westminster has set a poll tax of £195 — the second lowest in London after Wandsworth — and its fate in council elections tomorrow is central to the Government's case for the community charge. If the Tories, who have a majority of only four seats, beat off the Labour challenge and buck the national trend, ministers will be able to argue that it is the level of the charge, not the underlying principle of a flat-rate tax, that is at fault.

Yesterday, Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, produced leaked papers which, he said, contained evidence of "corruption" involving local Tories and ministers to "jerry-mander" the election result. He suggested that Westminster had illegally used ratepayers' money to hire a firm of lobbyists to conduct a high-powered persuasion exercise stretching all the way to the Prime Minister.

In a bizarre twist, Lady Porter, leader of Westminster council, initially denied the allegations about hiring the firm of lobbyists but then retracted her remarks. A spokesman said she had been caught unawares and that the council had spent under £5,000 on hiring GJW, a firm of lobbyists, to make its case to the Government over the safety net and the council's need for extra money for services to tourists, commuters and shoppers to make up for that lost through the introduction of the uniform business rate. He said that Mr Paul Dimoldenberg, leader of the Labour group, worked for Good Relations, a lobbying firm previously associated with GJW.

The Department of the Environment denied that Westminster had been given special treatment, and Mr Barry Legg, the Tory chief whip for the council, dismissed the claims as a "desperate pre-election gimmick".

Dr Cunningham said: "The purpose of this conspiracy has

been to manipulate the eventual level of the poll tax in Westminster, and almost certainly in Wandsworth and Bradford, too, for the simple political objective of retaining political control as a squalid political exercise."

"Now we have the evidence which confirms our suspicions that this has been deliberately manipulated with the misdirection of public funds and the very partial and special treatment given to these Tory boroughs simply to try to buy another four years in power. Ministers have clearly been involved, as has 10 Downing Street... lobbyists have clearly been employed by the council at the ratepayers' expense."

He added that Westminster had been given an extra £25 million — worth £185 a person in lower poll-tax bills — as a result of the lobbying exercise. "This is corruption."

Mr Legg replied: "In common with hundreds of other councils, of course, we lobby the Government about the £75 safety net and the cost to our charge-payers of servicing a million commuters, tourists and shoppers who pour into Westminster every day."

There were four documents produced by Labour, including reports of meetings and one making direct reference to the Prime Minister. It said: "The Prime Minister is the last resort. She should only be invoked when all arguments have failed to persuade DoE ministers of the rightness of Westminster's case."

The department rejected the claims and denied that Westminster had behaved improperly. "Westminster's grant was calculated on precisely the same basis as applied to other authorities," it said.

Conservative Central Office denied there had been special treatment.



Dr Cunningham: Seized on leaked documents

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Aerosol slogan amid the decay of St Paul's district: A city acclaimed for engineering genius has now gained a world reputation for graffiti

## Big Brewers resist order on sale of rival beers

By David Sapsted

NEW brands of beer should have appeared — but in most cases did not — in more than 21,000 British public houses yesterday as the first step in the Government's drive for more competition in the brewing industry and greater choice for the drinking public.

Under a Department of Trade and Industry order made after last year's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the industry, tenants of public houses owned by the five big brewers were free from yesterday to start selling at least one "guest" cask-conditioned ale, buying it direct from an independent company.

The new order did not work out that way. Tenants claimed pressure from the brewers; the National Union of Licensed Victuallers was mulling over legal action; and the companies were considering rent increases for publicans who started selling beers from independent brewers next to their own.

Independent and regional brewery companies, mean-

while, intensified efforts to persuade tied houses to carry their beers. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries even offered rent subsidies or loans at 5 per cent to publicans ready to stock its Banks's brew. That, in turn, led to existing Banks's publicans protesting that the national brewers' pubs in the Midlands would suddenly be offered a price edge they did not enjoy.

Mr John Overton, chief executive of the licensed victuallers' union, said: "It is all somewhat confusing and unsatisfactory." The union is taking legal advice over the proposal by GrandMet, one of the big five brewers, to review the rents of its 4,238 tenants because of the "new retail opportunity" in the Government order.

The monopolies commission originally proposed that the big five — Allied-Lyons, Bass, Courage, GrandMet and Whitbread — should be required to reduce the total number of tenancies to just 2,000 each. The report added that a tenant should be allowed to carry one guest beer, which would have given publicans access to the boom market in lager.

Pressure applied inside and outside of Parliament by the brewing lobby, however, finally left the companies with all their properties and left tenants with only the opportunity of carrying at least one cask-conditioned ale outside the brewery-supplied portfolio.

Mr Ken Hollingworth, who runs Ye Olde Green Dragon, an Allied-owned house at Shenfield, Essex, estimated that even that concession could mean the big five losing up to a fifth of their cask-conditioned sales.

"I have been carrying two guest beers, Adams and Greene King, for some time. Both were supplied via Allied but, when I said I was thinking of buying in one of them direct myself, the company said it would stop supplying me with the other one," Mr Hollingworth, chairman of the Allied Tenants' Group, said.

"There was also the threat of a rent review, but we took legal action and Allied starting backing off. I don't quite know what the position is at the moment but I am talking to other brewers this week to see what they have to offer."

Regional brewers have been offering various inducements, including free or cut-price ales, over the past two months in the hope that tenants would jump on their beer wagon. Apart from GrandMet, the national brewers have started offering to supply their tenants with a range of guest beers, the brew depending on regional preferences.

The Campaign for Real Ale, meanwhile, has been waging its own publicity campaign, urging publicans to go their own way but, so far, tenants appear to be waiting for the dust to settle.

"It sounds a good opportunity but it is scarcely worthwhile increasing your range if, at the end of the day, your extra profits are going to be taken away in higher rents. Most tied houses are still biding their time, seeing if the whole thing is going to be commercially viable," Mr Overton said.



Rites of May: The White Hart Morrismen from Redditch celebrating the dawning of May Day at St James's church, Weechley, Warwickshire

## Tommy the Hat will sweet-talk tourists for a free pint

By Harvey Elliott

TOMMY the Hat, who on most days can be found sitting in his favourite corner at the bar of his local drinking pits of bitter and playing a mean game of dominoes, has found himself in the front line of the battle to persuade foreign visitors, especially Americans, to see more of the "real Britain".

Tommy, like hundreds of other pub regulars, has been spotted as a potential crowd puller and in return for free pints at the Granary Hotel, Ambleside, Northumberland, has been

persuaded to become one of a new breed of "professional" locals, provided he teaches visitors how to play darts and dominoes, speaks the dialect, reminisces about the good old days and allows them to sit in his corner while they take photographs for the folks back home.

The idea of recruiting the regulars came to Mr David Hayes, director of Wayfarer Inns, which looks after the marketing for independent country pubs, inns and small hotels, after he studied the results of a survey among American travel

agents about what their clients wanted to see and experience in Britain. Nearly 75 per cent of those questioned said their clients would like to sample country inns and pubs if only they could book such things in advance and were guaranteed the chance of sampling the local life.

He wrote to all group members from Devon to Scotland suggesting that they recruit their local character to act as some kind of ambassador and provide the touch of authentic colour tourists so often seek but rarely find. The response has been

overwhelming. It seems that Britain is full of the likes of Tommy who would love to earn themselves free pints for a half-hour chat.

"This is a very serious proposition," Mr Hayes said. "The inns who belong to our group have between five and 15 bedrooms and really represent the true picture of rural Britain. We want them to earn their beer, however."

Tommy, nicknamed "the hat" because of the woolly hat he wears incessantly, will also have to hand over a recipe for his favourite family

dish, which in his case is rabbit pie, identify the main items of local gossip and news and describe beauty spots in the immediate area.

For Tommy, a retired coal-miner of indeterminate age, that will present few problems because he has always lived in and around Ambleside and loves to gossip anyway. If he and his fellow regulars can woo the tourists and persuade them to pay up to £75 a night for a double room in an old inn the chances are that they will be rewarded with far more than the odd free pint.

## Libel damages for MP

SIR Hector Monro, Conservative MP for Dumfriesshire, accepted substantial undisclosed damages at the High Court in London yesterday in settlement of his libel action against the League Against Cruel Sports.

Mr Michael Grieve, for Sir Hector, told Mr Justice Michael Davies that the league, which campaigned for the abolition of all forms of hunting and other field sports, had also unreservedly withdrawn imputations in an article published in its newspaper *Wildlife Guardian* in November 1987.

The article contained allegations over the circumstances of Sir Hector's leaving the government in 1981 when he was Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment. Mr Grieve said the league had recognized the damage caused to Sir Hector and had published a full apology in a recent edition of *Wildlife Guardian*.

Mr Tom Hart, for the league, which is to pay Sir Hector's legal costs, said the officers and members regretted that the wholly unjustified statements were ever made. The society's present staff were not associated with the publication of the offending article.



Sir Hector: Full apology from league

## Big haul of 'crack'

West Midlands police have made what is believed to be the largest seizure in Britain of "crack", the highly addictive cocaine-based drug. Crack with a street value estimated at £27,000 was discovered when police raided a flat in the Holloway Head area of Birmingham on Monday night.

It was the fifth seizure of crack by West Midlands police in the past two years. A spokesman said that the weight of the drug discovered was still being determined. Three people are being questioned in connection with the seizure.

## Marsh remand

Terry Marsh, the former world boxing champion charged with the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager, was further remanded in custody until May 8 at Barking Magistrates' Court.

## Village plea

Villagers at Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire, have demanded their Georgian post box back after Royal Mail Services, in a dawn raid, replaced it with a modern box. The demand is being considered.

## Damages award

A psychologist who had to quit her job after being knocked down by a car in south London and suffering a change in personality won £200,000 damages in the High Court from the driver, aged 21.

## Quick thinking

Roy Bowling, aged 21, of Leyton, east London, was found not guilty of rape when a jury at the Central Criminal Court returned the verdict in four minutes, said to be a record.

## Slippery slope

Cars were wrecked and pedestrians jumped for their lives when a 38-ton lorry carrying frozen lamb hurtled through the centre of Axminster, Devon, after its brakes failed.

## Bean bath

Mr Kevin Nally raised £2,000 for children at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, by sitting in a bath of cold baked beans for six hours.

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# Cracks show in the wall of Spanish socialism

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

SEÑORA Carmen Romero de González, a socialist MP from Madrid, was applauded from the sidelines as she marched in the May Day demonstration staged here yesterday by Spain's two principal trade union organizations.

The applause was not for her husband, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister. It was for her, precisely because she chose to identify herself with the left-wing opposition to the Socialist Government.

The presence of Señora Romero de González was symptomatic of the cracks that have developed in the formerly solid wall of Spanish socialism as the Government slips through its third term of office, having failed last October, for the first time since 1982, to win an absolute majority in Parliament. The cracks have spread upward to the very cupola of power.

husbands' right to form a trade union. Several of the men have been imprisoned because the Government refuses to recognize that right.

It was the second successive year that the socialist General Labour Union marched side by side with the communist Workers' Commissions trade union, in a defiant gesture of independence from the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), which it spawned a century ago.

The May Day march came one day after Señor Ricardo García Damborenea, who was the most outspoken left-wing dissident within the PSOE, registered a new party, Social Democracy, under his own



Señora González: Cheers for supporting opposition

leadership. His decision to leave the Government party and turn his "current of opinion" into a new party was prompted by an order from the PSOE leadership suspending him from all activity within the party for two years.

Señor García Damborenea's walkout came less than two months before the regional elections in Andalusia, where the Socialist Party is by far the strongest but is suffering from an internal power struggle.

Only last month the centrist faction, led by Señor Alfonso Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister, succeeded in imposing its candidate for the Andalusian regional presidency, Señor Manuel Chaves, formerly the Labour Minister, and thus denied support for Señor José Rodríguez de la Borbolla, the incumbent, who is a fellow Socialist.

Señor García Damborenea's says his splinter party aims to occupy the space which the Socialist Party has vacated with its shift to the right. However, it is probably too late for Social Democracy to take part in the Andalusian elections, which are scheduled for June 23. The acid test for the new party will come next December, in the Basque regional elections, especially

considering that its leader is from that region.

Señor Joaquín Leguina, the Socialist president of the Madrid regional government, has also fallen out of favour with Señor Guerra, who is more powerful within the party than the Secretary General, Señor González himself.

Recalling a Spanish proverb which says: "When you see your neighbour's beard cut off, start soaking your own," Señor Leguina said, following the party's failure to renew its support for the Andalusian regional leader: "I'm soaking my whiskers every day."

Revelations of corruption which have tainted both main parties, the PSOE and the Popular Party, may reduce the big parties' support at the polls in favour of smaller and regional groups. Perhaps the Andalusian elections will give some indication of such a tendency.

One scandal involves a brother of Señor Guerra, who allegedly used a government office to conduct private, not state, business.

Señor González's determined loyalty to Señor Guerra could get the Prime Minister himself into political trouble. There is already muted dissent within the Cabinet about the handling of the Guerra affair.



Firing line: South Korean riot police launching tear gas grenades in a clash with radical students after an anti-government demonstration in Seoul yesterday

## Strikers paralyse Korean factories

Ulsan, South Korea

MOST factories in Ulsan, the power base of South Korea's biggest exporter, Hyundai, were paralysed yesterday as workers joined strikes to protest over a police raid on Hyundai's shipyard.

Outside the south-eastern city, however, no large-scale strikes were reported in spite of earlier fears of nationwide walkouts on May Day. Witnesses said workers were blocked by a huge police force that thwarted plans for rallies in the key Masan-Changwon industrial area of the city. Two thousand workers clashed with riot police, they said.

Hyundai Motor Company's 22,000 workers marched peacefully through Ulsan after voting to strike for two more days until next Monday. Wednesday and Saturday are national holidays in South Korea. Seventeen thousand students clashed with riot police firing tear gas in Seoul and other cities in anti-government demonstrations.

Police raided the shipyard at dawn on Saturday to evict several thousand striking workers who were protesting against the arrest of union leaders. The raid ignited fury and led to prolonged street battles. (Reuters)

## Quayle geared up for serious role in Europe

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

THE office of the Vice-President is very much grander than that of his boss. There is more gold statuary and exotic carving and more portraits in gold than in the Oval Office of the White House.

Vice-President Dan Quayle himself, however, as all the world now knows, is not very grand. When he speaks, he does not exactly fill a room, as a distinguished diplomat pointed out the other day.

The man who will meet Mrs Thatcher on Sunday on his first official European tour is modest - and with reason, say critics. He is no joke, according to a Time magazine cover last month proclaiming another "probing look" into the man who would be America's first citizen should anything happen to Mr Bush.

In an interview with British correspondents, Mr Quayle expressed his dislike of the Time piece, except for a phrase describing him as a "late bloomer". "That's true," he said, "and you can quote that." Sitting on his antique desk, between a life-size toy dog and a spray-painted chunk of the Berlin Wall, he gave the impression of a naturally patient man.

Officially Mr Quayle is

visiting London, Paris and Rome to mark the centenary of the birth of Eisenhower, the wartime leader and former President but, although there have been strong hints from the State Department that he should not be allowed anywhere near the political minefields of Europe, he firmly dismissed the idea that his visit was pure ceremony. It was, he said, a serious part of the allied discussions on the future of Nato.

He has a very engaging confidence. His record may be slight - too slight as yet to bear either the exaggerated criticism or the raves from his journalistic fan club - but Mrs Thatcher will find him an attractive interlocutor. He shares her caution about changing institutions. "Patience is a virtue," he told us, "and being cautious is part of doing the right thing."

"The contribution of Nato is unparalleled in history. We must accommodate changes but there are some things we don't want to change - and peace and deterrence are two of them."

Mr Quayle is also very well briefed. He has had the confidence to assemble around him a team which can compensate to a considerable extent for any academic deficiencies.

According to Time, he spent 25 years "blissfully Awol from history". The magazine quotes one of his teachers as saying: "I looked into those blue eyes and I might as well have been looking out of the window."

Now, however, he has the support of conservative heavyweights on his staff who are at least a match for their equivalents in the empire of Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State.

The rivalry between the two camps is still palpable in Washington, despite attempts to paper over the cracks. The Quayle position on Israel is less outspokenly critical than that of Mr Baker and, on the Soviet Union, he is closer to the scepticism of the Pentagon.

There are recurring stories of Mr Baker's desire to keep open the top space on the Republican ticket in 1996 for himself - an ambition which, if it is to be fulfilled, needs the Quayle image to remain, like his golden office picture frames, somewhat tarnished by their past.

Relations between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Baker are now better than they were a year ago, but when the Prime Minister and the Vice-President review US foreign policy this weekend, they may find themselves much enjoying their special conservative slice of the special relationship.



Mr Quayle: "Awol from history" for 25 years

## Kennedy scion fails bar exam

From Charles Bremner, New York

BANNER headlines on all three tabloids here yesterday were unanimous: "The Hunk Flunks". For the Big Apple, there was no problem decoding the message - it referred to Mr John F. Kennedy Jr, the only citizen who is as famous for failing exams as he is for his good looks.

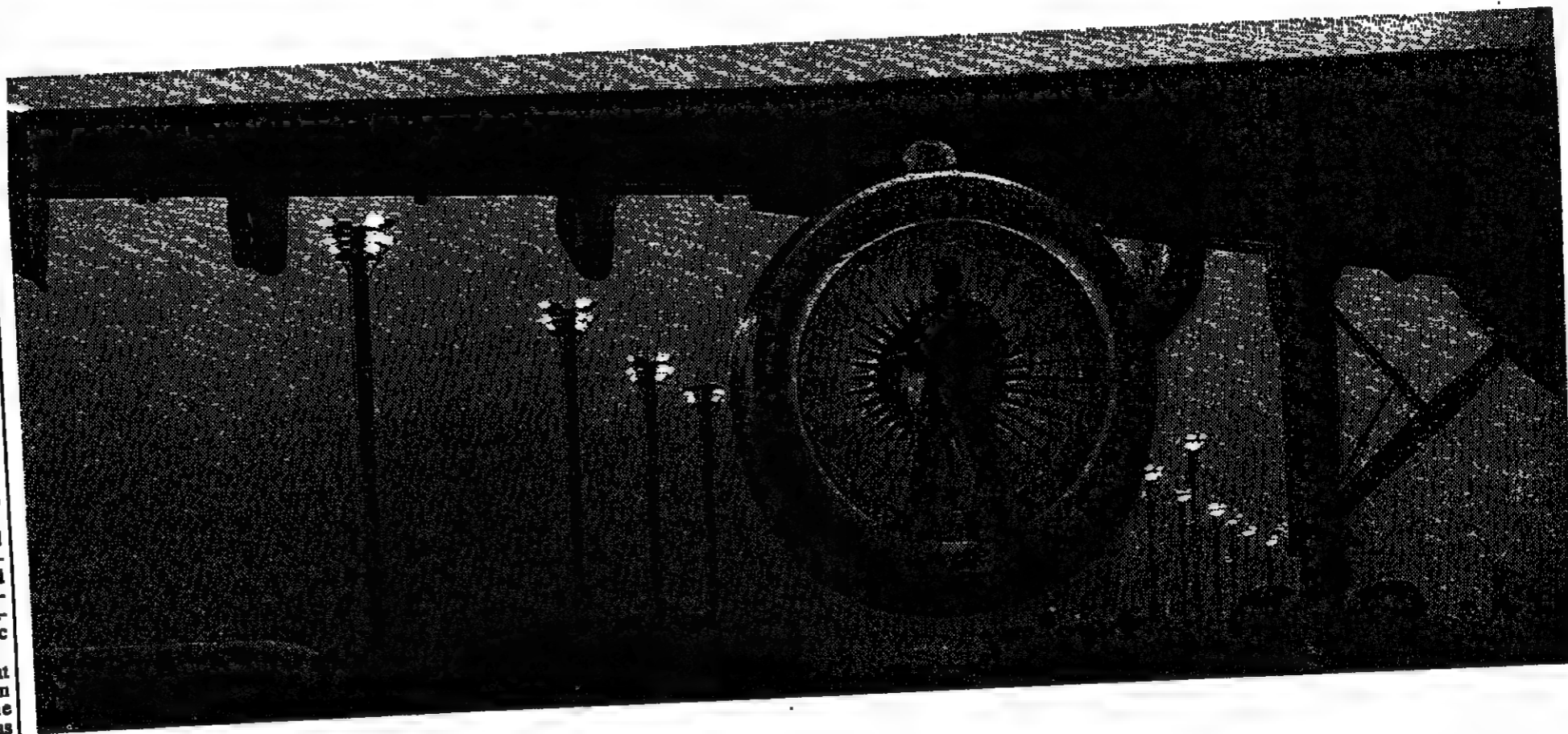
Declared by a recent magazine to be "the sexiest man alive", the son of the late President had for the second time failed to gain admission to the New York bar. He will be given one more chance before losing his job as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan. "I'm clearly not a major legal genius," Mr Kennedy, aged 29, said, promising to take the examination again and again "until I'm 95".

The crown prince of the Kennedy dynasty was upstaged by the offspring of another famous family. Miss Madeline Cuomo, daughter of Mr Mario Cuomo, New York's Governor, cruised through the bar examination at her first try. Mr Kennedy's sister, Caroline, passed a couple of years ago.

New York's most eligible bachelor can, however, take comfort from illustrious precedent: his late Uncle Robert, also a former Manhattan district attorney, failed the test on his first try - which did not stop him going on to become a senator and United States Attorney General.

Mr Kennedy received acres of advice from the local media yesterday, including 10 tips from the New York Post. The Number one was: "Ditch the whole thing, go to the beach and let delicious babes chase you for the rest of your life."

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# Can drivers clean up their act in time?

Cecil Parkinson's vision of a motorists' self-help campaign against the greenhouse effect was re-gained with mixed feelings by conservationists yesterday. The Secretary of State for Transport predicted at a conference on Monday that substantial cuts in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from vehicles could not be achieved in Britain in the next 20 years, but he suggested that drivers could achieve fuel savings of up to 10 per cent by turning their engines and 15 per cent by changing their driving habits.

"The effect of this kind of action is real, but limited," says Tessa Robertson, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which organized the conference in London. "People can do a lot by changing the way they drive, but I do not think the full benefits can be gained without tax incentives to encourage better practice."

This week's hot weather highlights the urgency of the issue; ozone levels in London rose above the World Health Organization's recommended safety levels for the first time this year.

Several groups have chosen this month to launch campaigns to raise awareness of traffic pollution. The

As ozone levels hit a high, George Hill looks at ways to cut pollution

National Society for Clean Air today starts a 24-hour "Fume Line" (0836 405-100), which the public can phone if they see vehicles emitting excessive fumes. In Nottingham, the local Friends of the Earth and Transport 2000 groups are promoting what they claim will be the first "car-free day" in a British city tomorrow. "I do not think we will see a noticeable reduction in cars coming into the town," says Lisa Kerslake, of Nottinghamshire FOE. "Our aim is to make people aware of the problem."

Mary Blake, of Friends of the Earth, says: "The first thing needed to help you drive more cleanly is to choose the car with the lowest possible fuel consumption. Do not overload it, or create unnecessary wind resistance by carrying a roof rack unless you need it. Then drive smoothly and avoid aggressive driving. There is evidence that using radial rather than cross-ply tyres can

bring a fuel saving of 6 to 8 per cent.

The motoring organizations offer broadly similar advice. Clive White, a press officer with the Automobile Association, says: "If a car is driven sensibly, it is possible to make quite considerable savings in fuel use and emissions."

The AA is uncertain about Mr Parkinson's call for better engine tuning, however, and points out that most modern cars have complex systems to control fuel efficiency, which are quite reliable so long as the owner follows the manufacturer's servicing schedules. But it points out that it can be worth checking that older vehicles are still doing as many miles to the gallon as they should.

Sir Colin Buchanan, the former adviser to the Government on traffic planning, agrees that there would be gains if drivers could be taught to drive less assertively. "I would go further than Mr Parkinson," he says. "I think we ought to have a complete overhaul of our shoddy driver-training system."

Research by the WWF suggests that if road users simply observed the existing 70 mph speed limit, fuel consumption would be cut by as much as 2.4 per cent.



Uneasy rider: a London cyclist dons an anti-pollution mask

## LA DISCOVERS THE SKY AGAIN

Los Angeles today: gas-guzzlers jamming the freeways. Result: a pall hanging over the city that makes the air the dirtiest in America.

Los Angeles in the year 2000: electric cars running along underground cables, millions of lorries running on cleaner-burning fuels, petrol stations selling methanol. Result: clear blue skies.

This, at least, is the vision of clean-air campaigners laid out in a plan drawn up by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, which by 2007 would improve visibility in downtown Los Angeles from the present 16 miles to more than 75 miles. By 1998 it aims to have 40 per cent of cars and 70 per cent of lorries and buses running on clean fuels. And by 2008, it wants car makers to produce only vehicles that run on electricity and other alternative fuels.

The visionary scheme has already begun to take shape. Local officials recently announced plans to build an experimental 1,000ft "powered roadway" for electric cars, which could recharge their batteries from a cable running under the road. And

the California Rapid Transit District has started to take delivery of a fleet of methanol-fuelled buses.

Car makers and oil companies have taken some well-publicized steps to clean up their image. Last September Arco, the largest oil company on the West Coast, started to market a reformulated petrol called EC-1 to replace leaded petrol used by pre-1975 cars, which lack catalytic converters. Arco claims EC-1 reduces the emission of pollutants by 20 per cent. Both Arco and Chevron have also equipped some service stations with methanol.

Unocal Corp, the Los Angeles-based energy conglomerate, recently went one better by offering to pay \$700 each for the first 7,000 pre-1971 cars driven into a local junkyard to be turned into scrap; it also offered owners who turned in their gas-guzzlers a one-month bus pass. But more traditional methods may eventually help Los Angeles control the scourge of exhaust fumes. Later this year, citizens will vote on whether to double the state's tax on petrol.

James Bone

# Tradition dawns in Oxford

After only two years, the alternative May Morning looks like becoming a fixture

May Day, of all traditional festivals, has had the most competition in Oxford. Turned into a prosaic Bank Holiday, cavalcade moved to May 7 for the convenience of business, derided by right-wing MPs as a satanic communist festival, the sweet old festival of spring has had a hard time. Even in one of its last bastions, Oxford, there are signs of rot setting in.

What should happen — and does, up to a point — is that the choir of Magdalen climb their high tower above the river and, at the stroke of dawn, sing a hymn. Then flowered undergraduates and Morris-dancers crowd the streets until breakfast time, and the Oxford summer has officially arrived. However, by last year the street festival had become so meaningless, rickety, drunken and polluted by blaring amplified rock music that a group of disgruntled Oxonians, led by the sculptor Michael Black, set up a rival May Morning ceremony. He commandeered the tiny, arched Aristotle Bridge over the canal, a mile from the heaving crowds, and erected a 25ft-high replica of Magdalen Tower in wood and canvas. The Headington Quarry Morris Men threw in their lot with the Aristotle faction, and a crowd of 150 conducted their own dignified little ceremony. It appears to have been Year One of a new tradition.

For yesterday morning the chiming of six o'clock again rang out sweet and true from a pole of six carefully-tuned lengths of scaffolding pole suspended inside the canvas tower. The sun painted it the honey-gold of Headington stone with sudden, startling authenticity, and the tiny white face of a lone chorister appeared between the pinacles. It was, in fact, a knotted handkerchief tacked to a pole, with a face drawn on it with Biro, but the effect charmed the rebel crowd which had assembled on the little bridge to sing "Now is the month of Maying" with enthusiastic fal-lal-las.

Meanwhile, in the city centre, the police fought their own measured battle against

hooligan takeover of the morning. Black's faction had no such competition up on Aristotle Bridge. But clearly, if the excesses of the main May Morning are to be curbed, the breakaway revellers will need a secret weapon to maintain their support.

They have one. At 6.15, just as interest was beginning to wane and teenagers in flowered hats were considering defecting, a low rumbling sound and an eerie, supernatural moaning heralded the appearance of a life-sized plaster ox garlanded in May-blossom and ridden by a self-possessed six-year-old May Queen, Georgina Bell-Black.

This animal, a model for Black's projected bizarre bronze ox statue for the city, was hauled by four strong men and attached to a giant bellows, which produced the mournful moo via a car manifold and a battered organ-pipe. The teenagers decided to stay. Followed by a growing crowd, the great bull was heaved through the dancers and on to the bridge beneath the slightly swaying canvas tower. It sloshed, slightly, and when expert hands manipulated a tap in its plaster pizzle, it was revealed as holding 18 gallons of best bitter.

"What is this?" asked a lone French tourist. "I am staying in this hotel. I go to May morning, a man tell me there is a better May morning up here, so I come." She took a photograph. "The ox," a donnish woman said judiciously. "I don't think that has any particular May Day significance, has it?"

"Laden with it, madam! Laden with it!" boomed the sculptor, appearing beneath its pendulous undercarriage.

There is no point making special arrangements to attend this alternative traditionalist May Morning next year. Black refuses to be committed. It may even change bridges, and reappear somewhere else entirely. Traditions don't always decay or fossilize. Sometimes they are born, too.

Libby Purves

## THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE POWER

Lotus, the maker of high-performance cars, seems the least likely company to design a car using the same technology which fuels a milk float. Yet it is testing a £42,500 Esprit sports car which could run at 160mph on both petrol and battery power.

The keenest debate among car manufacturers is no longer about how to extract noxious gases from exhaust fumes; this can now be achieved by the catalytic converter, which will be compulsory on all new petrol-fuelled cars within two years.

The problem is how to replace, or make better use of, the fuels which emit carbon dioxide, the gas blamed for contributing to global warming, particularly since the Transport Department calculates that traffic will more than double by early in the next century.

Car makers warn that petrol and diesel fuel will still be in use in the year 2000 despite a huge investment in battery technology and clean fuels such as methanol.

Doubts still prevail over the viability of methanol and whether it is better than petrol as a fuel source, although Mercedes-Benz is develop-

ing a model which can alternate between the two fuels at the turn of a switch.

The efficient use of electricity to power cars still eludes manufacturers, who cannot discover how to lengthen the life of the unwieldy and heavy batteries needed. General Motors, the world's biggest car maker, is, however, planning an all-electric car, called the Impact, capable of 130 miles to a charge yet with performance similar to that of conventional saloon cars. Power will come from 32 lead-acid batteries stacked in the centre of the car.

Two of Europe's biggest manufacturers, Peugeot and Fiat, will have battery-powered cars on sale in the next few weeks — both versions of existing petrol-driven models, and claiming up to 100 miles travelling from one overnight charge of batteries.

Given that the average car journey in Britain is about 10 miles, battery power could provide an immediate solution for the environmentally aware commuter. However, the demand for high performance will remain, so travellers will still be faced with the problem of

making high speeds over long distances — something the battery car cannot yet provide.

That leaves two main options in the short term: diesel and "hybrid" cars using a mix of two fuels.

Volkswagen-Audi says diesel is a good option, despite its reputation for smoky and smelly emissions. The latest diesel engines can achieve fuel savings of 30 per cent over petrol, and harmful emissions are much less.

However, the "hybrid" car may be the one which emerges as "the people's choice" in the next few years. Many of the major manufacturers, such as BMW, Audi, VW, and now Lotus, have developed models powered by both batteries and petrol.

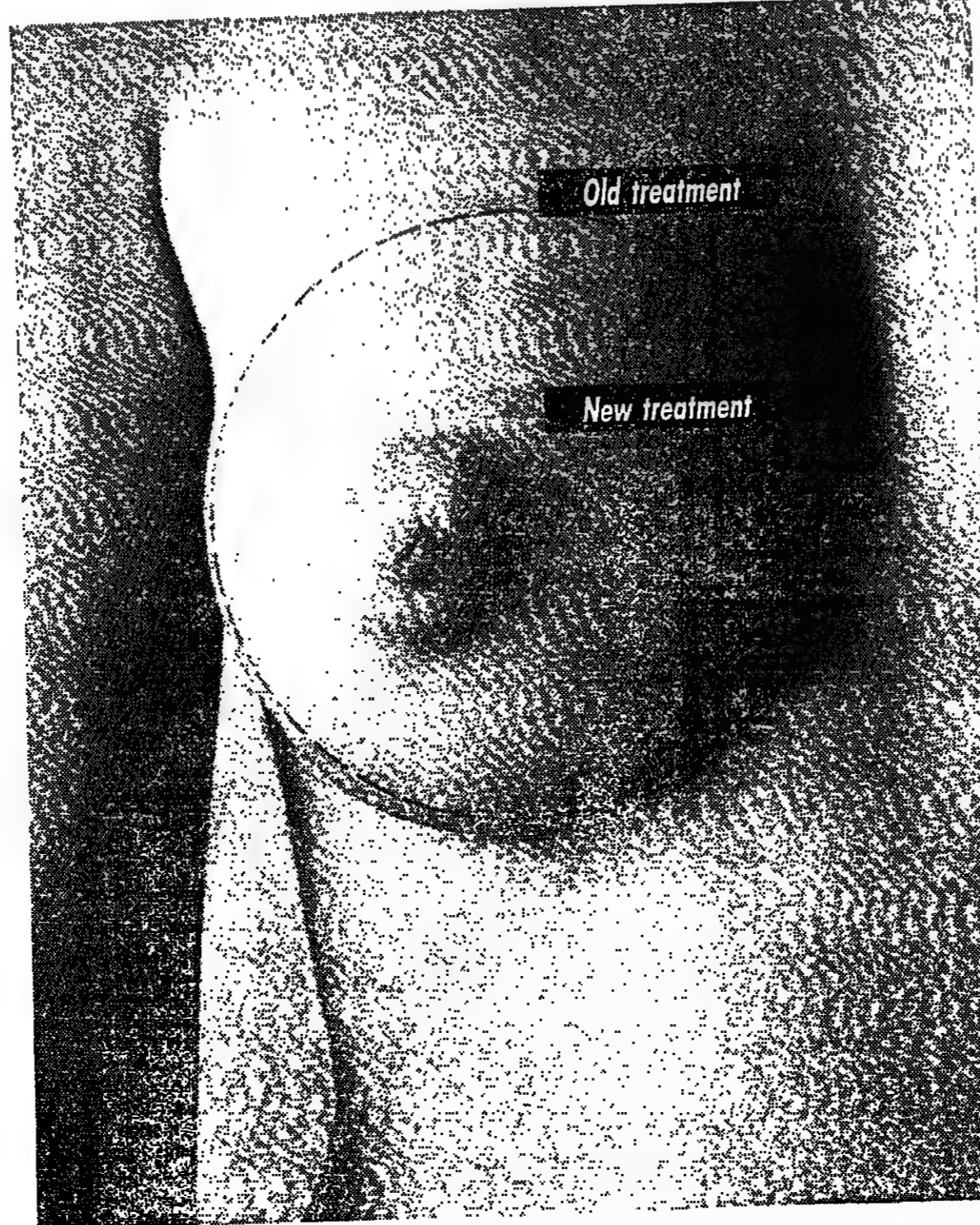
A computer sensor under the bonnet decides which fuel is best. On long, high-speed runs in open country, a petrol engine, equipped with a catalytic converter, powers the car, but in towns a battery-driven engine takes over. The petrol engine recharges the batteries, which can also use the mains.

Kevin Eason

## The most common form of cancer in women

One woman in every twelve is likely to suffer from breast cancer. Until now the treatment has involved major surgery which, unavoidably, leaves scars. Physical and mental. That's why a new technique pioneered by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's breast cancer unit at Guy's Hospital is of such crucial importance. Some women will still need a mastectomy. But

for an ever-growing number of patients, localised surgery can be used to remove the lump instead of the whole breast. Heartening news for every woman. And for that matter their nearest and dearest. Just as encouraging is the fact that more and more cancer centres nationwide can now offer similar techniques thanks to the widespread sharing of information and ideas.



Thanks to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, not every woman with breast cancer has to live without a breast.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has been at the forefront in much work that has led to a number of equally critical advances. Without doubt lives have been saved and certain cancers that at one time seemed incurable, aren't. However, there is still much to be done. As for the future, it's our belief that it's now a question of when cancer is cured, not if. But all our work is funded by voluntary contributions, and could not carry on without them.

In fact, of every pound volunteered over ninety pence goes directly to research. This allows the Fund to continue to employ a body of over one thousand top scientists, doctors and technicians in some of the most up-to-date research establishments and hospitals, throughout the country. So you see that when you give to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund you're not simply giving to charity. You're giving hope. For there's no organisation more likely than us to prove, once and for all, what is already the truth for many: there is life after cancer.

Please send me further information on the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and how I can help. Send to: Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

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# Outstanding staying power.

*Extracts from ICI Chairman Sir Denys Henderson's address  
to the Annual General Meeting of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC  
on May 1st 1990*

**T**he 1989 results were a record, and we exceeded £1.5bn pre-tax profits for the first time. Pharmaceuticals and Agrochemicals both had an excellent year and Colours and Fine Chemicals, Specialty Chemicals and Polyurethanes also did well. But it was a challenging year, with two distinct phases. During the first half demand was at record levels. In the second half growth rates slowed, particularly in the housing, construction and automobile markets in the UK and in North America. Businesses primarily involved in these sectors, that is, Paints, and Industrial Products including Explosives, ended up pretty well level pegging with 1988, but with good profits nonetheless.

There were some disappointments. Films had a difficult time. The Fertilizer business managed to contain its losses but was not able to get back into profit in spite of rationalisation in Europe and the actions we have taken in the UK and Canada.

Overall, the 1989 results demonstrate the value of a carefully focussed, robust portfolio and we are now seeing the benefit of the many changes we have made in recent years.

## Sharpening our competitive edge

Change will continue. We are focussing single mindedly on activities where we are, and will continue to be, world competitive — technically, commercially and territorially. In 1989 we made nearly 50 acquisitions and divestments. Among those being completed this year I would highlight the acquisition of the Atlas Powder Co. This will give the ICI Explosives business a strong presence in the United States, thus completing our comprehensive coverage of the world's major markets. We also increased capital expenditure to more than £1bn and continued to invest in new businesses, such as Seeds, Advanced Materials, Imagedata and Biological Products.

At the same time, we have maintained very satisfactory financial ratios and increased research expenditure to almost £640m. Our return on net assets puts us amongst the world's most profitable chemical companies, but we are still able to devote sufficient resource to ensure our innovative capability for the future.

All of which are convincing reasons for recommending a final dividend, which at 10% above the previous year will be the seventh consecutive annual increase.

## Opportunities worldwide

We are living through a period of historic change. Events in Eastern Europe have moved with incredible rapidity and, if adequate political solutions are found, there will eventually be a massive additional market for our products.

ICI has employees and offices in virtually all the East European countries, and we are well positioned to grow our business.

We must also take action in Asia Pacific markets, where around 40% of chemicals expansion in the next decade will occur. Since 1986 we have approved investment of more than £100m in Japan and last year we approved investment of £200m for plants in Thailand and Taiwan, where growth prospects are also good.

There are thus three major trading blocs for ICI products. North America, where we are now powerfully established. Europe, where we are thoroughly entrenched and ready to take advantage of EEC and Eastern European potential. And Asia Pacific, where we are investing strongly.

## ICI and the environment

I have been much concerned in recent years that we should achieve steady improvement in our health and safety at work, and in our environmental performance.

As far as safety is concerned the Group's performance has improved significantly. Accidents in 1989 were 25% down on 1988. Nevertheless there were three fatalities. Each has led to a most demanding search for means to prevent re-occurrence.

We must also seek a significant improvement in our environmental performance where there is enormous change in public expectations. I believe there is a real imperative for ICI to be "World Class" in an environmental sense as well as in its business performance. This is how we are going about it.

First, we have placed improving our environmental performance high on the management agenda, with results being regularly monitored by the Board. ICI people and their families live in the community, often close to our plants, and we all share environmental concerns.

Second, we are intent on reducing emissions from our existing plants, for example with new waste recovery plants. The level of investment and the rate of improvement in these areas will increase. We are also working with our customers to help them solve their waste problems by, for example, re-cycling CFCs and plastics.

Over £1.5 billion profit in 1989

A strong, balanced business portfolio

Change will continue

5 Queen's Awards

Leading edge of science

Innovation in environmental technology

Seeking significant improvement in environmental performance

Third, we are paying the closest attention to the environmental aspects of new plant design. Our new ammonia process has won the Pollution Abatement Technology Award, and has been chosen to represent the UK in an EEC-wide Awards Scheme. Our FM21 cells, for producing chlorine and caustic soda without using mercury, have just won a Queen's Award. Quietly, we are building a competitive edge in environmentally friendly technology.

Fourth, we shall continue to invest in research to increase our understanding of environmental issues. New facilities are being added to the Environmental Sciences Unit at Jealott's Hill and a £3m extension to the Group Environmental Laboratory at Brixham will open this year.

Fifth, we are bringing forward products which will reduce environmental concerns. We are leading in the difficult task of finding a substitute for CFCs in refrigeration and air conditioning. ICI's first plant should be completed by the end of the year. ICI resins have won the 1989 Dutch environmental award for 'Environmentally friendly products' and we are hoping for a favourable reception to the launch of our biodegradable plastic 'Biopol'. Changed public attitudes present us with new business opportunities where we can marshal technological resources to produce products which can turn our wish for a better environment, into reality.



## Investing in Britain's future

Let me turn now to research, where in 1989 we increased our expenditure to about £640m. Over the last five years our research manpower has increased by 35% and we now have about 14,000 scientists and technologists. Their efforts are the principal source of innovation and the mainspring for our future growth.

It is also a very special UK asset. Our research represents 7% of manufacturing industry's R&D and science based companies like ICI are rare in this country. Two thirds of the UK's total civil R&D is carried out by only twenty companies who, in turn, are major exporters. If the UK is to continue to play a significant part in world trade, these resources have to be nurtured and applied internationally.

ICI research covers biological science and polymers and materials science from which the major growth areas of the 90s will spring and it has an academic funding programme which supports more than 50 University projects. Today's new products — drugs such as 'Diprivan' and 'Zoladex', and agrochemicals products such as 'Kerate' and 'Force' — reflect investment made 5-10 years ago, when we began to increase the proportion of the Research budget which went into the biological sciences. We have stepped up our commitment to biotechnology — a powerful enabling technology for pharmaceuticals, plant breeding and agrochemicals.

This year's Queen's Awards are good evidence of ICI's inventiveness and our ability to convert it into valuable business. Besides the Award for the FM21 chlorine production cells, Awards for technological achievement have been made to ICI Colours and Fine Chemicals for a new class of polyester dyes; and to ICI Cellmark Diagnostics, jointly with the Lister Institute for Preventive Medicine, for discovery and development of genetic finger printing.

Awards for export achievement have been won by ICI Agrochemicals, which has doubled its exports in the last five years and to Cambridge Research Biochemicals, which was acquired by ICI in 1989.

## Vision and change

ICI began life in 1926. Sixty three years on we are thriving, have grown into the UK's biggest manufacturing company and the super league of the world's chemical companies. This suggests outstanding staying power.

The first quarter results bear this out with profits before tax amounting to £414m — a considerable rebound from the depressed fourth quarter of 1989, but some £28m below the first quarter of 1989. Bearing in mind the more difficult economic conditions today by comparison with the early part of last year, this performance can be regarded as encouraging. Particularly noteworthy was the strong profit growth of the Bioscience businesses. Pharmaceuticals, Agrochemicals and Seeds, which achieved trading profits of £216m compared with £151m in the first quarter of 1989.

At this stage it is difficult to predict the outcome for the whole of 1990, but barring any further sharp economic downturn I believe that the strength of our business portfolio should ensure that we have a reasonably satisfactory year — and we shall continue to pay close attention to costs, as I urged in the autumn of last year.

The period ahead may be uncertain but I would emphasise that we are better prepared than at any time in our history both to seize opportunities and to embrace change. The strategic re-direction of the 80s has allowed us to enter the new decade in excellent shape, with much improved financial ratios, better productivity, stronger Research and Technology and a much more balanced, more international portfolio. We have the people too, men and women of all nationalities, who are the ultimate, enduring and vital competitive advantage of this Group.

I am convinced that the single factor which will ensure that ICI will continue to grow profitably worldwide, is the application with determination, consistency and farsightedness of those policies which are relevant to the times in which we live. It is our ability to anticipate change and adapt to it that has allowed ICI to flourish. We have exited the 80s with record profits and clear strategies which will carry us forward into the next century as one of Britain's very few genuinely international, science based, world competitive companies.



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## SECRETARIAL

The London Secretary Show starts today at Olympia 2 and, as Alan Hamilton writes, dedication is the name of the game

## Penny's empire

The back of Penny Pike's hand is black and blue with a series of urgent felt-tip messages written on it. She apologises for detaining me, but would I accept coffee while she transmits a long and urgent fax to Richard? I sit in her outer office, waiting. It is a houseboat on the Grand Union Canal.

I am not altogether surprised at the surroundings. Somehow, a floating personal assistant fits perfectly naturally into the unconventional and informal image of the Branson empire.

Penny, finally freed from the fax, relates that she left school with seven O levels, went to secretarial college, and began working in the multifaceted section of a solicitors' office. But at least, she says, it taught her accuracy; you did not dare make a typing mistake as Tipp-Ex did not look well on legal documents.

But the low point of her secretarial career, she believes, came when she worked at a leading advertising agency, and caught herself reading a book one day because there was nothing to do. "I thought that was despicable; the job was obviously unnecessary and therefore fairly worthless."

Between long holidays of travelling cheaply around Europe and managing a villa in Greece, she went temping. "I loathed it,

because you can never get stuck into anything, and you always get the feeling that the temps are given the worst jobs." She was saved by a friend pleading with her to go to Virgin Records superstore at Marble Arch, then just opened.

Working up from a shopfloor job that had little to do with shorthand and typing but everything to do with selling records, she eventually became Mr Branson's PA 13 years ago. "I don't know how it happened; Richard just suddenly appeared one day and asked if I would like to work for him."

### 'One call from Richard can wreck my plans for the evening'

It was initially terrifying. "The first thing he asked me to do was to find a band to back Julie Covington, who was singing on Thames TV that night. I hadn't the faintest idea what to do, so I asked him how you found a band. He said he didn't know. I just had to ask around until I found the answer."

Mr Branson, one suspects, knows very well how to assemble a band at a few hours' notice. "Richard is very imaginative, but also very human and down-to-

earth, which encourages you to try that much harder. Also, you know that if you fail to do something, he'll do it himself. And your pride won't let you put up with that."

Dedication to the job has contributed to divorce for Penny. "The hours can be really, really long; you just have to put them in to get the job done. Whatever I have planned for the evening, one call from Richard can wreck it."

Like many PAs in key jobs, Penny rarely travels with her ever-mobile boss. Her job is to hold the fort while the master is absent. But she says she could not now ever work for anyone else. "If I left this job it would be because I wanted children, or to set up my own business — or more likely both at the same time."

To be a successful personal assistant, Penny calculates, requires being very much in tune with the boss. Always be polite, but always make him feel very confident. "And whatever job within a job you are asked to do, always do it, and never feel it is beneath you."

One of the qualities required does not appear to be immaculate shorthand; Penny confesses that hers has declined from 110 words a minute to "a pretty rusty state". She can, on the other hand, boast what must be the ultimate proof of having arrived at the top of the secretarial tree. Penny Pike has two secretaries.



Penny Pike: rarely travels with mobile boss Richard Branson

## Males at the terminal

Only 55,000 of Britain's 1.2 million secretaries are male, according to Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research (Joan Venn writes). Leading employment agencies, however, say the number is slowly rising. "I think it's partly office technology," says Pauline Kent, Reed Employment's public relations manager. "Men are more comfortable with the idea of sitting behind a computer terminal than the standard typewriter."

An agency that prefers not to be identified puts forward another reason: "As more women are reaching senior management, the role situation is changing. It is something of a novelty for them to have a male secretary." Males, however, can be intimidated by having a male secretary and may feel awkward because they cannot treat him as they would a woman.

Although the idea of the "office wife" is dying out, there are still men who expect secretaries to buy presents for their wives and collect the dry cleaning. They hesitate to ask another man. Few women would waste their secretaries' time in such a way.

Most male secretaries prefer to temp, though some are persuaded to stay. Men in permanent jobs are usually personal assistants to senior executives. Agencies say that when men take to secretarial work, they are very good.

Some male temps regard secretarial work as a source of finance



**Skills:** Andrew Ravenscroft for other interests, not as a career. Tim Wright, working for a male consultant at Standard Chartered Bank, says he earns twice as much in temping as he did in programming. His aim is to make enough to enable him to work as a jazz musician in the evenings. One anonymous male, who won a medal in the Royal Society of Arts examination for personal assistants, temps so that he can take off for foreign travel.

Andrew Ravenscroft is now working in the Brook Street Bureau head office after a spell with the National Grid. He has a degree in English, taught himself to type and acquired word-processing skills. "I shan't be doing this long-term," he says. "While I am working I can improve on my existing computer skills. Up to now I have used three or four word-processing packages."

Male temps easily find jobs. They are in demand in Britain and in Continental Europe. Many legal and financial offices in Paris remain open until midnight for business with the United States, and men do the evening shifts.

More secretarial, page 35

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